Rising trends of frauds in on-line transactions

352. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising trend of frauds being committed in on-line transactions and Banks or their clients suffering huge losses thereby;

(b) if so, any measures are being taken towards countering this fast-growing menace; and

(c) what is the extent of losses suffered by PSU Banks due to such frauds during, 2006, number-wise and amount-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (c) RBI has reported that several instances of frauds in on-line transactions have been reported by banks, which include internet banking frauds, debit cards/ATM frauds and credit card frauds. The number of such frauds reported by public sector banks during the year, 2006 are as under:

Credit Card frauds		Debit Card/ATM frauds		Internet Banking frauds	
No. of frauds	Amt. involved (Rs. in lakh)	No. of frauds	Amt. involved (Rs. in lakh)	No. of frauds	Amt. involved (Rs. in lakh)
10	21.36	66	82.44	Nil	Nil

(b) RBI had issued detailed guidelines on internet banking to all commercial banks in June, 2001, covering technology and security standards, legal issues and regulatory/supervisory issues. RBI had also issued a caution circular on February 16, 2006 to all commercial banks on phishing attacks (creating fake websites of banks and collecting customer details such as user ID, password etc. and thereby fraudulently withdrawing money from the customer's account using fake credit card). The circular contains details of the *modus operandi* of such attacks and the minimum set of preventive/detective measures to tackle them.

Investment of mutual funds by PSEs

353. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are forcing the PSEs to enter into Mutual Fund market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would give any protection against the market fluctuations; and

(d) if not, how Government will compensate the loss incurred to PSEs due to investments in Mutual Funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved relaxation of the prohibition on investment of surplus funds by PSEs in mutual funds. However, it has restricted the relaxation to Navaratna and

Miniratna Public Sector Enterprises investing in public sector mutual funds subject to certain conditions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

World Bank assistance to State co-operatives

†354. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has provided an assistance of 60 crore dollars to bring in improvement in the functioning of State Co-operatives, District Co-operative bank and agriculture loan societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme to enable the above mentioned institutes to meet out financial needs of the poor farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the total financial package of Rs. 13,596 crore, for strengthening the Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country comprising State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS), the Asian Development Bank and World Bank have agreed to provide an assistance of US$1000 million and US$600 million respectively to the Government of India. The World Bank assistance is proposed in the form of loan of US$300 million from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a credit of SDR 196.8 million (equivalent to US$ 300 million) from International Development Association (IDA).

(c) and (d) The Government has approved a revival package to strengthen Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS). The States willing to implement the package are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Government and NABARD for carrying out certain legal and institutional reforms.

Financial assistance for STCCS under, the package is available for cleansing of Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2004 and increasing the capital to a specified minimum level subject to legal and institutional reforms. In order to ensure that STCCS continues on sound financial, managerial and governance norms, technical assistance is to be provided to upgrade institutional and human resources of STCCS, computerization and setting up proper internal control and accounting systems.

Losses in Regional Rural Banks

†355. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the country at present;

(b) the details of the branches of these banks, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.